HIS XMAS.

And Odd Customs of the Day.

BY PETER M'ARTHUR.

"I had my last Christmas dinner in the middle of July," said the new returned traveler to his friends, when the subject of Christmas festivities and the consequent financial drain for presents happened to be brought up by the impecunious member of the group.

"July!" exclaimed the clergyman inquiringly. "Haven't you made a mistake? Christmas is not one of the movable feasts of the church.'

"What I mean," explained the traveler, "is that if you had Christmas here under the same conditions you would have it in July. I had my last Christmas dinner in Australia."

In reply to various inquiries he explained:

"As you, of course, know, they have summer in Australia when we have winter here, but what struck me as strange was that, although Christmas is the most adaptable feast in the world the people of Australia celebrate it just as we do. Last Christmas in Coolgardie there was a sandstorm instead of a blizzard, and the theremometer stood 90 degrees in the shade, but the windows of the stores were dressed with cotton snow and tinsel ice and evergreens, just as if the festival were being held in England, where most of those who were participating had been born. On Christmas eve Santa Claus came with a jingle of sleighbells and stamped around to shake off the artificial snow and was almost suffocated with mufflers and robes. The Christmas dinner was just as heavy as ever was served in midwinter, and the plum puddings, that had been sent out from England by thoughtful friends, were brought on burning."

This led to a discussion of Christmas as opened. it is celebrated in different parts of the world, and the fact was brought out that though Christmas revels often admit of variations the Anglo-Saxons, not using the term in the all embracing sense described by Mr. Dooley, have a tendency to celebrate it in the same manner wherever they may be. Different arctic excircle, and their whole energy was directed toward making the event as close a duplicate of similar celebrations at home as fresh seal meat and canned goods

"I have noticed," said the clergyman, "that wherever Christmas is introduced



COLUMBUS DISCOVERING THE TURKEY. among heathen people by our missionaries when the festival is celebrated they always regard it as supplanting some of their barbaric feasts and give it some of the characteristics of what they have given up for it. I spent one Christmas at a mission station among the Indians of the northwest, and when they gathered around their Christmas tree they sang the hymns they had been taught and besides chanted weird, monotonous songs of a maddening rhythm that made me S. fear that the festival would degenerate into a ghost dance or something of the J sort."

"That sort of thing was what I re- R ferred to," said the traeveler, "when I spoke of Christmas as being an adaptable B feast. It seems to change in character In to suit the different nations that cele- J. brate it, and as we have it now it has gathered features from many sources. Its A liveliness, while being a religious insti- J; tution, is attributed to the fact that it supplanted the old saturnalia of pagan | C. Rome and took something of the same A character, as may be seen from the fact | So that in early times the festivities were always presided over by a lord of misrule. C. Then the tree lighted with candles was added to it when it was introduced by the church among the Scandinavians, who used to burn candles before the tree Ygdrrasil, or tree of life, and in giving up their mythology for Christianity they still retained the symbol, which is now regarded as nothing more than a convenient thing to hang toys and presents on."

"But," exclaimed the impecunious one who kept his mind on the material side of things, "whatever the church or ancient mythologies did for Christmas, America did the most of all to make it a satisfying institution."

"I don't see how," said the clergyman. "It was celebrated long before the dis-

covery of America."

"Quite true," replied the loyal American. "But America had to be discovered before the turkey could be made the erowning glory of Christmas. Christopher Columbus discovered it the moment he landed, and, by the way, it is a remarkable fact that less than 30 years after the discovery of the new world the turkey is mentioned in old descriptions of Christmas festivities as being the chief part of the Christmas cheer."

"That reminds me," said the clergyman, "that America, with its rapid methods, has effected another change in the Christmas festivities. Originally they lasted from Christmas day until Twelfth Night, but we have such a habit of condensing things that the whole fortnight of revels has been boiled down to one night and one day."

"Oh, well," said the American cheerily, "I think I have learned all I want to about Christmas. I have learned that it originated as a religious rite, then be the citizens of Bartow, extended greetis just a yearly blowout that makes a ed. A report was read from the Sunday fellow like me hustle for the price of the necessary presents and remembrances."

COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD.

Official Report of Their Business Meeting This Month.

The board met Wednesday, December 2. Present, S. F. Gibbs, chairman; R. E. Mims and J. M. Dixon, members, and John H. Sams, county superinter.dent,

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The county treasurer's report of school funds received and disbursed was received and ordered entered on the min-

Teachers were appointed, as follows: Mrs. Tantie Puckhaber to school No. 43, Woodley; Miss Mary Parker to school

No. 44, Canaveral; Miss Alma Fransen to a school at Viking. The apportionment for the above

general rule, viz:

\$15 per pupil in regular attendance and that the patrons of said school must provide the school room with seats until the school is fairly established.

Ordered that a stove and pipe be furnished to school No. 1, LaGrange; that the gutter at school No. 102, Cocoa, colored, be fixed; that a galvanized iron saddle for stove pipe be furnished to school No. 21, Sebastian; that the request of Mr. Hovelsrud for a school at Bethel Creek cannot be granted, the change of residence having been made after the schools were

Ordered that the salary of the teacher at Hardeeville be changed to \$30 per month for the term of five months; that the bill of M. S. Sams for the rent of the building for the use of school No. 106. Courtenay, colored, be paid; that the oilene, manufactured by an old, experibill of C.W. Crabb for transferring school enced painter of twenty-five years' pracplorers have given accounts of how they furniture be paid; that a warrant book be celebrated Christmas within the arctic ordered; that eighteen kindergarten chairs be ordered for school No. 1, Titusville; also, eighteen kindergarten chairs for school No. 6, Fort Pierce.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

handed to the board

6.79

819.45

Dec. 1, bal. in treas'y last report.... \$

Total receipts during month

Warrants paid by the treasurer and

Cash bal. in treasury	21.87	5
	1,880.76	1
	9,973.87	
The state of the s		
ITEMIZED RECEIPTS.	2.1.	
Balance on hand, last report	\$ 679	
From tax coll. co. school levy, 1898	.25	
do do do 1899	23.55	Ä
do polls, 1898	136.00	-
do do 1899	190.00	
From state treasurer, red'mp'n lands,		
1894,	1.00	
do prop'n 1 m, state tax	465.60	
From Co. Supt., sale of books	10.38	
do surplus material Cocoa		
school	2.75	
do exam'n fees	5.00	

ITEMIZED EXPENDITUGES. To teachers_____\$1,435.00

Total, all sources,

J. H. Sams, county superintendent.

1	J. II. Dailes, County Superintendent-	.0.00
l	S. F. Gibbs, member of board	12.00
l	R. E. Mims, " "	9 00
1	John M. Dixon " "	4.00
l	J. P. Sawtelle, rent b'ld'g, school No.	
	37, Hardeeville	2.00
1	M. S. Sams, do school No. 106, Courte-	
1	nay	10.00
1	S. F.Travis, stove and fixtures, school	
1	No. 4, Cocoa	10.05
1	J. Pritchard & Sons, stoves and pipe	
1	for schools Nos. 2, 10, 19 and 37	42.37
l	R. L. Moon, chairs and work No. 2,	
1	Titusville	10.27
1	Brevard County State bank,interest	19.42
1	Indian River " "	25.05
1	J. C. Gilbert, placing desks in Cocoa	
	school No. 4	1.50
1	A. Z. Dixon, do	1.69
1	James A. Groves, placing desks and	
ı	material in school No. 21	2.04
Ì	C. H. Walton, pub'g monthly statem't	2.00
1	American Book Co., school books	178.57
1	South'n S. B'k Dep'y, do	14.45
1	Hinds & Noble do	24.35
1	C.W.Crabb, transf'g school furn. from	
l	Rockledge and Cocoa to Cocoa	
j	schools Nos. 4 and 102	2.00

Orange Grove Bargain.

Total expenditures _____ \$1,880.76

Owner of two orange groves will sell either one of them in order to give entire attention to the other. One has 100 trees, 50 bearing, about 50 boxes oranges on now, tract contains 15 acres, near Mims station, price, if taken at once, \$800. The other grove is in Tumbull hammock, has 200 trees, about half bearing. If you mean business and want either of these properties address W., care STAR office, Titusville.

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Proceedings of Methodists.

The annual Florida conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Bartow, last week was largely attended. At the opening session eighty-eight clerical and fourteen lay delegates answered to their names. F. Pasco was re-elected secretary and F. Blackburn, E. F. Ley and S. W. Lawler, assistants. Mr. C. A. Boswell was introduced and, on behalf of came a festival, later a revel, and now it lings. Bishop Chandler happily respondschool editor, Dr. James Atkins, and referred to the conference Sunday school board. A report was read from Dr. J. Anderson, publisher and editor of the Florida Christian Advocate, and referred to the committee on books and periodicals. Dr. J. L. Barbee, D.D., agent of the Southern Methodist Publishing House, was introduced and represented the publishing interests of the church. Charles Inman, president of Emory College, Oxford, Ga., offered his report through the secretary, which was referred, on motion, to the board of education. Communications were also read from the P. and L. Institute, Church Extension board, publishing house, board of missions and general secretary of the board of missions and referred to appropriate Hay, Grain, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, boards.

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NOTICE.

All concerned take notice that Joseph P. Brown, as sheriff of Brevard county, Florida, and ex-officio administrator of the estate of Ephriam F. Adams, deceased, has filed his suggestions in writing of the insolvency of the estate of said deceased. Therefore all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to appear and file them pro-perly authenticated in the court of the county judge on or before the 7th day of June A. D. 1901. Ordered the 6th day of December D. L. GAULDEN, County Judge.

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